SUBSTITUTE FOR GLASS IN GREEN-HOUSES.

Light is an agent perfectly indispensable to plants in a growing state, and they generally thrive in proportion to the amount of it they receive. It is the stimulus which puts in action all their most powerful and important vital forces. Hence it is a principle in modern gardening to provide houses used for cultivation with the most transparent substance that can be procured for their roofs, and to employ means of diminishing the quantity of light at those seasons when, under the artificial circumstances to which plants are exposed in hothouses, it becomes necessary to do so. For this end glass is universally employed, and it is not likely to be superseded. But some plants never require bright light; cucumber for example. Others need it only during the summer; as many sorts of greenhouse plants. Others, again, can dispense with it at an early period of their growth, though it is indispensable to them afterwards. In all such instances any substance which is cheap, waterproof, and not brittle, although not more transparent than horn, would be invaluable to gardeners; and accordingly various attempts have been made to deprive paper or cotton linen of their opacity by some greasy or resinous preparation which shall repel water. We cannot say that the attempts have been hitherto very successful. In some cases the application of the substance to be employed has been difficult; in others its preparation has proved an obstacle; and sometimes even in its cost. At last the proposed end seems to have been attained by Mr. George Whitney, of Shrewsbury, if we are to judge from the statements that have been made to us, and by the specimens we have seen. There is now before us a piece of cotton linen, and another of muslin, which are certainly all that can be wished for on the score of transparency and texture, both prepared by some waterproofing substances which Mr. Whitney has contrived. We understand that this gentleman was led to turn his attention to the subject in consequence of having lost the larger part of his wall-fruit for three or four years consecutively. Early last spring, he covered his trees with common calico coated with the composition, when the blossoms were found to expand fully, and a crop of fruit much greater than the trees could support was the result. He did not take the coverings off by day, except to thin the fruit, till the latter end of May. The crop was not only abundant and very fine, but a month earlier than his neighbours'. This success naturally induced him to try a thinner material (muslin) for cucumbers and melons, and the fruit grown under them is represented to have been of good quality. No doubt can be entertained of the plan being successful for many purposes, and we recommend our amateur friends to put it in practice—on a small scale, however, at first, until they have ascertained the best means of proceeding.—*Westmorland Paper.*

NEW CHURCHES.

Trinity Church, Hull.—This beautiful and venerable church is likely to undergo a complete and long-desired restoration. We understand the "pitiless pelting" of the elements has made such an inroad upon some portion of the masonry, as to threaten the destruction of important portions of the beautiful and venerable edifice. The very appearance, whether inside or out, of this once richly adorned and massive structure, plainly enough bespeaks its shamefully neglected condition. The very first glimpse which the stranger approaching this ancient and important town, whether by land or water, obtains of the sacred pile, must convey an impression most unfavourable both to the Christian piety and public spirit of the place, for its very pinnacles are shattered and destroyed; whilst it wears throughout a most forlorn aspect. And this of a building that justly ranks amongst the finest sacred edifices of our land, and of which Hull had once so much reason to be proud as its highest honour and its crowning ornament.

The state of the entire building, fittings and all, is really most deplorable, dirty and dilapidated in the extreme, within as well as without, and if something be not immediately done to arrest the progress of that decay which downright neglect has introduced, the venerable pile will soon begin rapidly to crumble away. Tenders had been received from several parties, the most reasonable of which was from Mr. Crosskill, of the Beverley Iron Works, whose offer was 260*l.*, including masonry. The cost of removing the galleries and re-pewing the church, according to the plans and estimate, would be 1,947*l.*, added to which 100*l.* for the architect, made the estimated expense 2,307*l.* As a set-off against this, the old materials were estimated at 100*l.*; the committee proposed further to reduce the expenditure by foregoing the organ-gallery and screen which had been proposed to be erected at the west end of the church, at an expense of 200*l.*; also to do without doors to the pews, by which 50*l.* more would be saved. This would reduce the estimated cost of the undertaking to 1,957*l.*, towards which the churchwardens had voted 1,000*l.*, and the public subscribed 782*l.* 10*s.*, together 1,782*l.* 10*s.*, leaving a balance of 174*l.* 10*s.* yet to be raised.

Walcot, St. Stephen's Church.—It appears from a letter in the Bath paper that the Rev. H. Widdrington, the Rector of Walcot, is much involved with the expenses of building the above church. His predecessor, Dr. Moysey, had entered upon the project, but not further, it would seem, than as to the determination to build a church, and the decision of the site. Mr. Widdrington says—

"The building committee, immediately on my arrival, requested me to join them in their proceedings; and the first part I took in the matter was to vote in the selection of the building plan. Several designs were presented to the committee; and had it not been that a very beautiful design of a church by another eminent local architect could not be carried out under 3,000*l.*, his plan would have been selected: but I expressed to the committee my strong conviction that, as we had only the immediate prospect of 2,000*l.*, we were not justified in adopting any plan which should exceed that sum; and I protested against any arrangements by which debt could be incurred."

A plan, therefore, was agreed upon, and proceeded with, the contract being, as above stated (2,000*l.*). Presently came the objections of the Bishop's Commissary to the *mal-a-propos* direction of the communion-table, which involved "the throwing out a transept arch" on one side, and afterwards another transept projection on the opposite side by way of *balance;* then followed other necessary and consequent enlargements, until the contract rose from 2,000*l.* to upwards of 3,000*l.*! One member of the building committee, who had been most active, *suddenly* leaves Bath, embarrassments ensue, and the rest of the committee, excepting only the churchwardens and the rev. vicar, resign; thus, the rev. gentleman is driven to the alternative of appealing to the parish to make good the large deficiency of 2,500*l.*, now remaining to finish the church. The vicar sets a good example by adding to his former subscriptions 100*l.* now, for this special object.

Restoration of St. Olave's Church.—On Thursday the committee appointed by the vestry to direct and superintend the restoration of the above church, met at St. Olave's Girls' Charity-school, Maze-pond, Southwark. It was determined to restore the church, and not rebuild it, which will be an important saving. A tender was accepted from Messrs. Rider and Son, of Union-street, Borough, for the performance of the whole works, to restore the church as it originally stood, at 4,618*l.*

Rouen, France.—A church for the English residents of this town is about to be built, a chaplain having been already appointed by the Bishop of London: it is thought that an edifice for 500 persons may be set up for 1,200*l.*, part of which sum will be contributed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the remainder by subscribers.

The Round Church, Cambridge.—We understand that a meeting of the parishioners of St. Sepulchre's was held on Thursday night, before which the chairman of the Restoration Committee was respectfully invited to give some explanation with respect to parts of the work lately objected to by the incumbent.* Before the meeting separated, a resolution was passed, "thanking the president of, the Camden Society for his obliging and courteous communication, and expressing the obligation the parish was under to the committee of that society for completing the work of restoration in so satisfactory, praiseworthy, and excellent a manner."—*Cambridge Paper!*

* The objection, we understand, was to the introduction of a stone altar instead of a communion-table. Not to speak irreverently. It would seem the Rev. R. Fellows was supposed "*to look the gift horse in the mouth.*"—Ed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Hull—Improvements in the Trinity House.—The Corporation of the Trinity House are extending their improvements. They have ordered the demolition of the old chapel in Trinity House-lane, adjoining to the Trinity House hospital. This chapel, which was erected in 1772, and was of very substantial brick-work and masonry, is now nearly levelled with the ground. Its site and the ground adjoining are to be covered with a complete set of new offices, for the wardens and their clerks, &c., for receiving the dues, paying the pensioners, and transacting other business of the corporation. Mr. Foale is the architect, and Mr. Earle the mason employed.—*Hull Packet.*

Street Improvements in Hull.—It will be remembered that about three months since, the Hull Dock Company advertised for plans for the best mode of laying out the grounds, formerly the site of the well-known Dock Office-row, and the old dock office, and offering a premium for the best. In consequence, several designs were submitted by local and other architects. After due deliberation on the merits of each, the company came to the unanimous resolution of adopting the design of Mr. Charles Evans Lang, architect, of the Adelphi, London. Mr. Lang's entire design contemplates still further improvements in the appropriation of that piece of ground now used as a ship-building yard, to warehouses, &c., for which it appears to be most eligible; forming, as it will, a corresponding feature to the pile about to be erected on the site of Dock Office-row. By this design, Bridge-street will be completed, and a street formed from Trippett to the drawbridge into the old town, by shops on each side. This is the first improvement in the approaches to the town attempted in Hull. We congratulate the Dock Company on its originating with them, and would hope that the Corporation, when such opportunity may offer, will not hesitate to follow so laudable an example.—*Ibid.*

Bath.—It is proposed to erect a new bridge here in lieu of the old and inconvenient one, and a meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of St. James is shortly to be call- l for the purpose of determining upon it. A public fountain is also to be set up in Lower-place, under the auspices of the Bath Improvement Society, aided by the grant of a supply of water from Lord Wm. Paulet.

Birkenhead.—At a meeting of the Improvement Committee last week, it was ordered that 5,000*l.* be expended on seven lodges, to be erected in the new public park.

Union of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal with the River.—The formation of a short cut connecting the terminus of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal with the river Mersey, is so evident and so great an advantage to this port, and to the trade with those parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire which are traversed by that fine line of communication, that it is surprising that it has not been effected sooner. When the plan for effecting it, which is now before the committee of the dock estate, is completed, it will enable the flats coming down the canal to go directly into the river, and to discharge their cargoes of coal and other articles in whatever part of the docks they may be required. It will also enable flats for Leeds, or any of the places on the line, to take in their cargoes, or any part of them, directly from the shipping in the port, and thus save the expense of cartage. The cut, by means of which this is to be effected, will be about a thousand yards long, and will have four small docks in different parts of its course. It will cross Waterloo road and Great Howard-street, and join the canal not far from Leeds-street. If the proposed steam-boat dock, at the north end of the town, should be formed, this cut will be doubly useful, as it will enable the coal flats to go alongside the steamers without entering the river.

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